

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9843

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, OTRA
SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW: ITALY

REF: 77 STATE 282928

1. SUMMARY: ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES ARE WILLING TO MEET WITH GAO TEAM. ACTION REQUESTED: DATES FOR VISIT TO ITALY. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS SPOKEN TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INDUSTRY AND WITH FIAT'S ROME OFFICE ABOUT THE PLANNED GAO REVIEW OF CO-DEVELOPMENT AND CO-PRODUCTION EXPERIENCES. ALL OFFICIALS CONTACTED EXPRESSED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH GAO OFFICIALS. THE ITALIANS HOPE THE DISCUSSIONS WILL DEVELOP INTO A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS ON PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THE PAST AND ON FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR CO-OPERATION.

3. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT GAO VISITORS MEET WITH THE FOLLOWING ITALIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS:

A. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, CENTRAL OFFICE OF MILITARY READINESS AND PROCUREMENT, DIRECTOR, ADM. FRANCESCO IZZO, AND HIS ASSISTANT COL. GIUSEPPE SPAMPINATO. EMBASSY OFFICER HAS DISCUSSED GAO VISIT WITH SPAMPINATO WHO PICKED UP QUICKLY ON AGENDA TOPICS SUCH
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PAGE 02 ROME 00710 131313Z

AS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, LICENSES, PATENTS, ROYALTIES, ETC.

B. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, COUNSELLOR GIUSEPPE SCAGLIA. SCAGLIA'S OFFICE HANDLES ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FOR EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA IN THE MINISTRY. SCAGLIA WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THE RECORD OF ITALIAN-AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN-AMERICAN CO-DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION.

C. MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, OFFICE OF ATLANTIC PACT AFFAIRS,
COUNSELLOR CUZZONI, CUZZONI'S OFFICE IS CONCERNED WITH CO-DEVELOPMENT
AND PRODUCTION ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY. HE WILL BE
PLEASED TO GO INTO TECHNICAL MATTERS.

4. FIAT REPRESENTATIVE INROME ASSURED EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HIS
COMPANY WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH GAO VISITORS, BUT SUGGESTED
THAT A VISIT TO THE COMPANY'S TURIN HEADQUARTERS RATHER THAN
ROME WOULD BE MORE FRUITFUL. EMBASSY AGREES. IF THIS SUGGESTION
MEETS WITH GAO APPROVAL, WE WILL INFORM THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN
TURIN AND THEY WILL COORDINATE ARRANGEMENTS WITH FIAT.

5. FINALLY, THE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST A MEETING WITH
OFFICIALS OF THE AGUSTA FIRM (COSTRUZIONI AERONAUTICHE GIOVANNI
AGUSTA). AGUSTA HAS HAD A WELL-KNOWN AND SUCCESSFUL RECORD IN
CO-PRODUCING HELICOPTERS WITH BELL AND OTHER PRODUCTS WITH
OTHER AMERICAN FIRMS, INCLUDING BOEING.

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GAO COMMENTS ON PROPOSED MEETINGS
AND TIME FRAME FOR THE ITALIAN PORTION OF THE VISIT. GARDNER

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